Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Land & Water Quality Feb. 1999

EPA DMR Quality Assurance Study #18 Update.

Facilities that participated in EPA DMR Study # 18 should have received their final results by now. If you have not, please contact me.

As a reminder, the only parameters you are required to test for [and order] are those required by your NPDES permit. You are not required to test for those on your State Waste Discharge that are different. You can test for parameters that are not required by your NPDES permit on a voluntary basis. Please remember this when ordering for the next study.

The same goes for when you report your final result values back to the EPA or to their contractor. The only results you need to report back to the EPA are for those parameters that are actually required to be analyzed by your NPDES permit and any other voluntary parameters you may have ordered. **Some toxicity labs [and some chemistry commercial labs for that matter] report the results for all the tests they do for all of their clients in one summary document that is sent to all their customers, assuming that each licensee will then select only the test values that apply to them for their final results report back to the EPA**. Unfortunately, some facilities report all the results that are listed on these summary reports whether they are required to test for these parameters by their permit or not. In this case, all these extraneous values are also graded by the EPA as Acceptable or Not Acceptable. It is like submitting a number of extra papers to the schoolteacher for grading when the teacher only assigned you one to do in the first place. Who needs it!

The EPA then requires that the licensee send a cause and corrective action letter by March 29, 1999 to the state coordinator for every Not Acceptable result they receive [except for voluntary analytes]. What happens is that you end up being required to explain Not Acceptable results for numerous other toxicity and chemical parameters that have nothing to do with your discharge.

If you find yourself in this position for Study #18, please reexamine your NPDES permit to determine just which toxicity or chemistry test[s] it actually requires you to do on your effluent. Then explain the cause and corrective actions for these failed parameters only in your Not Acceptable response letter. In future tests please report only the results for your required tests and the results for any voluntary analytes back to the EPA.

I understand that information will be coming to you from the EPA over the next several months concerning Study #19. Remember this one will be different. This time you order your QA test samples from the EPA approved commercial lab of your choice. Most likely, the EPA will provide you with

a list of these approved provider labs that you can choose from. There will be a charge for these QA samples starting with Study #19. However, toxicity samples will still probably be provided by the EPA or its contractor in the conventional way.

Good luck on your test results and please call me at 287-7659 if you have further questions regarding this program.

[David Dodge]

For Practice

1. The preferred number of fecal coliform bacteria on a plate is
   a. 200 - 500
   b. 100 - 200
   c. 20 - 60
   d. 0 - 10

2. A flow of 1 MGD is the same as
   a. 0.75 cfs
   b. 1.55 cfs
   c. 2.38 cfs
   d. 5.65 cfs

3. The most important property of alkalinity in wastewater treatment is:
   a. It is a measure of DO concentration
   b. It is a mild disinfectant
   c. It acts as a buffer to reduce quick pH changes
   d. It inhibits corrosion

4. When should you schedule inspection and maintenance on tanks and channels?
   a. During periods of high flow
   b. During periods of average flow
   c. During rain events
   d. During periods of low flow

Y2K Problems with Flo-tote flow meter software

Recently I talked with Bill Stickney of Stickney Engineering Associates, Inc., the distributors of Flo-tote flow meters. He has notified some owners of flo-totes that the associated software, called Flo-ware, is not Y2K compliant. Therefore the flow meters may not work after 1/1/00 using the existing software. Flo-tote has a new version, called Flo-ware for Windows, that is Y2K compliant. It requires a laptop with a minimum 486-processor capacity, with Pentium recommended. There are other associated computer requirements as well. If Bill has not contacted you, call him at 978-664-1119 for more information. If you have recently purchased the existing software I think you have a valid complaint and you should discuss your cost with the distributor or manufacturer. If you have questions concerning the metering of CSOs with this equipment, call me at 287-7768.

(Stephen McLaughlin, CSO Coordinator)

Certification News

LAST NOTICE!!! Those operators who have **odd** certificate numbers are due for renewal on March 1st of 1999. Renewal notifications have been sent out. IF YOU HAVE AN ODD NUMBERED CERTIFICATE AND YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A RENEWAL NOTICE BY THE END OF JANUARY, CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY. If you don't receive your renewal notice and let your certification lapse, you could have problems down the road.

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

February 17, 1999 in Rumford, ME, Trenching, Confined Space Entry & PPE - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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February 18, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Care & Maintenance of Lab Equipment & Preparing for an NPDES Lab Inspection - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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February 24, 1999 in Bingham, ME, Trenching, Confined Space Entry & PPE - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
*****

March 3, 1999 in Eastport, ME, Trenching, Confined Space Entry & PPE - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
*****

March 9, 1999 in Brunswick, ME, Using Computerized Spreadsheets in Wastewater Process Control - approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2539.
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March 10, 1999 in Madawaska, ME, Trenching, Confined Space Entry & PPE - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
*****

March 16, 1999 in Augusta, ME, Macerating Equipment and Grinder Pump Maintenance - approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2539.
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March 17, 1999 in Orono, ME, Sewer Use Ordinance Review - approved for 5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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March 17, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Ultrasonic Flow Measurement - approved for 4 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.

March 18, 1999 in Augusta, ME, Ultrasonic Flow Measurement - approved for 4 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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March 19, 1999 in Bangor, ME, Ultrasonic Flow Measurement - approved for 4 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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March 23, 1999 in Presque Isle, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer, and VFD's - approved for 5.5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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March 24, 1999 in Auburn, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer, and VFD's - approved for 5.5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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March 25, 1999 in Old Orchard Beach, ME, Control Valves, Water Hammer, and VFD's - approved for 5.5 hours, sponsored by MRWA (207) 729-6569.
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April 13, 1999 in Ellsworth, ME, Caring for your Lab Instruments and Interpreting you Laboratory Reports - approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by
JETCC (207) 767-2539.
*****

April 27, 1999 in Kittery, ME, Basic Process Control Tests for Activated Sludge Systems - approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2539.
*****

May 20, 1999 in Bangor, ME, Troubleshooting WWTP Operations - approved for 6.0 hours, sponsored by JETCC (207) 767-2539.

Answers to *For Practice:*

1. c. The Standard Methods handbook recommends a bacteria plate should have between 20 and 60 colonies to ensure proper results.

2. b. 1 MGD = 1,000,000 gals/day ÷ 24 hrs/day ÷ 60 mins/hr ÷ 60 secs/min ÷ 7.48 gal/cu.ft. = 1.55cfs

3. c. Alkalinity, from bicarbonate ions in the water helps reduce drastic swings in pH when acids or bases are added to the water.

4. d. The best time to inspect and maintain channels and tanks in the treatment plant is when the flow through the plant is at its lowest.